

<u>DIVISION OF MINES GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION OF REGULATORY STANDARDS MANUAL</u>	
COAL MINE SAFETY ACT	CHAPTER 14.2
ARTICLE 3	CERTIFICATION OF COAL MINE WORKERS
Issue Date: 4/10/00 Revised Date:	Page 1 of 1

Section 45.1-161.37.A.

General Coal Miner Certification

All employees, who commence working in a Virginia coal mine after January 1, 1996, shall possess a general coal miner certificate issued by the Board of Coal Mining Examiners. If a miner can confirm working in a Virginia coal mine at anytime prior to January 1, 1996, he may elect to secure a General Coal Miner certification, but will not be required to possess this certification. Employees of independent contractors (such as coal truck drivers and surveyors) who are involved in mining or processing activities at a licensed Virginia coal mine shall possess a General Coal Miner Certificate as outlined above. For example, explosive distributors that provide services in loading and detonating blasts at surface mine operations are required to hold a General Coal Miner Certificate. A coal company may engage experienced miners from other states in testing and evaluating of operating equipment as part of the screening for employment prior to those persons holding a General Coal Miner Certification. These workers must receive hazard and task training, and be tested under direct supervision of responsible company officials.

General Coal Miner certification is granted by the Board of Coal Mining Examiners separately for surface and underground. A miner working at an underground operation or the surface area of an underground operation must secure the Underground General Coal Miner certification except coal truck drivers that haul coal only. A Surface General Coal Miner certification is required for contractor and mine coal truck drivers. The Surface General Coal Miner certification is required at all other licensed surface operations.

If a miner requiring General Coal Miner Certification does not possess this certification, a notice of violation shall be issued and the operator will be allowed until the beginning of the next shift to complete the training for the affected miner. If the training is not completed in the allotted time period, a closure order for failure to abate will be issued requiring that the affected miner be removed from the mine.